their dominant status in Internet and Broadband services and intense competition with private players.

(ii) Government propose to provide broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner and Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is working on schemes for providing financial assistance by way of subsidy for the broadband active Infrastructure such as Base Transmitting Station (BTS) and by utilizing the existing passive infrastructure available with the Telecom service providers.

(iii) The decision of the Government to reduce entry fees and Licence fees for National Long Distance and International Long Distance services has spurned competition and number of operators are likely to increase resulting in further reduction of cost of National and International bandwidth. This is expected to reduce the cost of Internet services to thereby benefiting common man including lower middle class families.

Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2006

4606. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Posts is re-working on the Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in view of criticism from courier companies; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with changes being proposed in the new Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The proposals to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 have not so far been finalized.

Investment to streamline operations

4607. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts proposes to invest Rs. 6000 crores to streamline its operations;